

Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board
Family Support and Literacy Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 17, 2013

The Regular Meeting of the First Things First – Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board, Family Support and Literacy Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, October 17, 2013 at the First Things First Board Room, 4000 North Central Avenue, Suite 800, Phoenix, Arizona 85012.

Members Present: Marilee Dal Pra, Terri Clark, Patty Merk, Irma Marquez, Carol Lopinski designee for Chris Scarpati, Irene Burton, Detza Van Bogaert, Gabriela Parra as designee for Janna Murrell, Danielle Gagnier, Beth Rosenberg, Holly Henley
Members Participating by Phone: Paula Hale, Noreen Sakiestewa
Members Absent: Colleen Day Mach, Sherie Gifford, Christine Niven, Suzanne Schunk, Becky Ruffner
FTF Staff: Dr. Aaliyah Samuel, Marla Dedrick, Cynthia Chavarria

Call to Order and Welcome and Introductions:

Co-Chair Dal Pra welcomed the Members and called the meeting to order at approximately 9:07 a.m. and introductions were made.

Consent Agenda:

Co-Chair Dal Pra called for a review of the consent agenda item which included meeting minutes from September 9, 2013 and called for a motion to approve. Member Burton motioned and Members Clark and Merk seconded. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Family Support and Literacy Update:

Dr. Samuel announced that the Child Crisis Center was awarded the Parents as Teachers 2013 Award. Member Lopinski confirmed that they were the recipients of the Losos Prize for Excellence for their MyChild's Ready program in Mesa, Arizona.

Samuel Leyvas, Interim Chief Executive Officer and Dr. Samuel attended the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund Conference. The conference focused on educational reform and the state of early childhood education. Mr. Leyvas and Dr. Samuel gave a two hour presentation and panel and there was a high level of excitement over family engagement and literacy. As a result of the presentation, First Things First has been asked to repeat their presentation and speak at the House Committee on Educational Reform as well as at the next School Board meeting.

Dr. Samuel gave a presentation at the National Black Child Development Institute 43rd Annual Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana. There were participants from unfunded States who had many questions about the progress of work being done in our state as Arizona is a recipient of Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program funds.

Dr. Samuel also attended the Arizona Strong Families conference which had over 640 home visitors in attendance. The Keynote Speakers did well and the Home Visitors communicated that they felt truly supported. Dr. Samuel offered her praise to Member Burton and her team for putting on such a well-organized event.

Stephanie Willis provided a brief update on the work of the Quality Assurance work which is in "full gear" phase.

Dr. Samuel gave a quick update on the Race to the Top application. It was express shipped on Monday, October 14th and we hope to hear a decision by December 2013.

State Wide Literacy Update:

Member Clark gave an update on State Wide Literacy system work and passed out copies of the Early Literacy Guides for Families. This document will be available as a PDF and print ready file for distribution as only about 25,000 copies were printed through a donation by Prisma Graphics. Member Clark would ask that the partners determine their own distribution plan by using the print ready files or if Partners would like additional copies printed, please contact the printer directly. Member Clark will send the Printer's contact information to Dr. Sameul for distribution to the Committee along with the two electronic files. Member Rosenberg would like to send this out through the Children's Action Alliance by e-news and asked Member Clark to write a brief

announcement that can be sent out with the electronic files. Member Clark will put this together and will send on to Dr. Samuel for distribution to the Committee.

Member Clark announced the statewide Family Reading Day on November 2nd in partnership with several McDonalds. We've asked that our reading communities invite their Mayors to help read at the participating locations.

The first week of November celebrates Family Literacy Day as well as Education Week. On November 8, 2013 we are hosting an Early Literacy Summit in partnership with Mayor Stanton. Our keynote speaker will be Nonie Lesaux, Director of the Harvard Graduate School of Education, Language and Literacy Research Division. They've done amazing work on best practices in evidence based approaches and Dr. Lesaux's specialty is in English learners in urban areas. Our partners at the Arizona State University are doing a pre-summit on the evening of November 7th at 6:30 p.m. on Move On When Reading and they are hosting a panel at the Heard Museum which will include several of our Read On Arizona Partners. Member Clark will e-mail the information to the Committee.

Member Clark announced the addition of the newest Read On Community in Buckeye and they are focusing on 0-5 as their priority and will open a new family resource center in January. We will be adding an additional four to five communities in Santa Cruz County, Cochise County, Tempe, Chandler and Globe. What's attracting the communities is the collaborative process being dedicated to data driven decision making and finding best practices and not re-inventing the wheel.

Review of Family Support and Literacy Framework:

Dr. Samuel recapped how at the last Advisory Committee meeting we broke into smaller groups and reviewed the recommendations and from the conversations and notes, the Family Support and Literacy (FS&L) Team was able to categorize the recommendations into a chart with three themes of Access, Awareness and Connections. If a recommendation didn't fit into one of the themes, there was intentional discussion on how to proceed but they will not be deleted or dismissed. But now that the recommendations are organized we have three layers to the Frame with the themes of "Access, Awareness and Connections", the recommendations and the final layer of the recommendations or tactics that didn't fit into the themes. Many of the tactics are very specific and targeted items that need to happen in order to move the recommendations forward. The FS&L Team will next merge the chart into the Framework to show, the frame, the recommendations and the strategic plan or tactics for the next three to five years. Dr. Samuel would like for the Committee to decide on two things, 1.) Determine what is still needing to be included or what needs to be taken out of the chart and whether we use it or not and 2.) Determining if the recommendations going in the direction we want to go.

Co-Chair Dal Pra has asked that everything on this chart that says Piper be changed to Read On Arizona both in the early literacy section as well as the Move On When Reading because multiple partners working with Move On Arizona are what's driving all of the work. Also remove Piper from the Maricopa Family Support Alliance funders because there are many other private funders who are also contributing tremendous resources to different projects and it would be good to remove any reference to a specific funder.

Member Burton feels it's going to be hard to decide on the chart if we have the recommendations listed without the tactics alongside for clarity on what they mean. Thinks we need them side by side to compare because the recommendations are so broad it's hard to determine if that's the right recommendation. Co-Chair Dal Pra believes part of the issue at the last meeting was determining what First Things First (FTF) "owned" and what other partners had control over. Member Burton identified that although FTF may not be driving them all, they're usually a part of them all and we might need to highlight where there's ownership by bolding those recommendations.

Dr. Samuel shared that the three Program Division Senior Directors from Family Support and Literacy, Child Health and Early Learning are going to be working on where our respective frameworks align and cross over. We recognize that we're currently working in silos but we're looking at areas where we can align and push things forward. This work will help define other areas of systems building and growth in the agency.

Co-Chair Dal Pra thinks we might need another chart to show the full early childhood system and the components as they trickle down. We need to be as clear and articulate as much as we can. Member Burton asked what the purpose of the chart would be and Dr. Samuel responded that it's to give the user an idea of what services are out there specifically for Family Support recipients. It was suggested that we might need to show one document with the system building efforts from all three Program Divisions and use it as an internal document only. Member Sakiestewa also likes the idea of making it an internal document but would like to have access to it so we can see everyone involved and identified. Dr. Samuel will move on making it an independent and internal document and she'll bring it back to the Committee for review.

Co-Chair Dal Pra asked if this was a framework structure the other First Things First Teams are using. Dr. Samuel responded that it is not and that the Health area is using the Harvard Medical Model and that Early Learning is still working on their structure. Member Merk suggested word smithing for fewer words. Co-Chair Dal Pra asked that when everyone has had a chance to review the full framework to get respond to Dr. Samuel with specifics.

Member Rosenberg has concerns with the Child Protective Services issue and for children currently in the foster care system and whether they're all getting the same support system. Dr. Samuel noted that this is one of those areas where there's need for more collaboration for those children and families entering and exiting the system. There is still work to be done here and there will be parts yet to be determined when the document is finalized because we're still going to be working on some of these issues. Member Rosenberg understands but would like acknowledgement that this population and need is being looked at and that it will be supported. Dr. Samuel shared that this is one topic where First Things First has to be careful of and that we're not supplanting the role of another agency but that we're helping support and bridge gaps. Member Rosenberg would like to participate on future discussions and she and Dr. Samuel will connect to discuss who else needs to be contacted to invite to the table.

Co-Chair Dal Pra noted that it is our responsibility as the funders and supporters of the field to know how to build the system together. Collaboration is an unnatural act by un-consenting adults and applauds First Things First and Dr. Samuel on always bringing everyone together in collaboration and offered her thanks to everyone on the Committee for being at the table and participating.

Future Work and Next Steps:

Dr. Samuel and the Family Support and Literacy Team will work on the revised recommendations by November 1st and will send the document to the Committee by November 7th for their review and comment. Further changes to the document by the Committee will be incorporated into the document and will be presented at the November 13th Meeting.

Adjourn:

Co-Chair Dal Pra adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:35 a.m.